

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MTN GE 01615 101803Z

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ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 EUR-12 EA-06 NEA-09 IO-10 ISO-00 FEA-01

AGR-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 FRB-03 H-02

INR-07 INT-05 L-02 LAB-04 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 AID-05

CIEP-01 SS-15 STR-01 TAR-01 TRSE-00 USIA-06 PRS-01

SP-02 OMB-01 OIC-02 AF-06 /128 W

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R 101620Z MAR 75

FM USDEL MTN GENEVA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 10

INFO AMEMBASSY BERN

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

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AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY MEXICO

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

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USMISSION OECD PARIS

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

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PAGE 02 MTN GE 01615 101803Z

PASS STR FOR GUENTHER

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD GATT

SUBJECT: MTN: NON-TARIFF MEASURES GROUP MEETING

REF: GENEVA 1525 (NOTAL)

1. SUMMARY. NON-TARIFF MEASURES (NTM) GROUP AGREED ON AMBITIOUS PROGRAM FOR NEGOTIATIONS ON MAJOR NON-TARIFF TRADE BARRIERS. NEGOTIATIONS WILL BEGIN APRIL 21 ON QUANTITATIVE RESTRICTIONS FOLLOWED AT TWO-WEEK INTERVALS BY STANDARDS, CUSTOMS VALUATION, AND SUBSIDIES AND COUNTERVAILING DUTIES. ISSUE OF CHAIRMEN FOR GROUPS NOT YET SETTLED. END SUMMARY

2. NTM GROUP MET MARCH 3-7 AND AGREED ON INITIAL SUBSTANTIVE PROGRAM FOR NTB NEGOTIATIONS. NEGOTIATIONS ON ELEVEN NON-TARIFF MEASURES, ASSIGNED TO FOUR SUB-GROUPS, WILL BEGIN AS FOLLOWS:

(1) QUANTITATIVE RESTRICTIONS, INCLUDING IMPORT PROHIBITIONS AND SO-CALLED VOLUNTARY EXPORT RESTRAINTS, AND IMPORT LICENSING PROCEDURES, APRIL 21-MAY 2;

(2) STANDARDS, PACKAGING AND LABELING, AND MARKS OF ORIGIN, MAY 5-16;

(3) CUSTOMS VALUATION, CUSTOMS NOMENCLATURE, IMPORT DOCUMENTATION, INCLUDING CUSTOMS FORMALITIES, AND CUSTOMS PROCEDURES, MAY 19-30; AND

(4) SUBSIDIES AND COUNTERVAILING DUTIES, JUNE 2-13.

3. SECRETARIAT WILL ISSUE BACKGROUND MATERIAL AND AIRGRAMS OUTLINING AGENDA FOR EACH SUB-GROUP PRIOR TO FIRST MEETING. WORK OF SUB-GROUPS WILL BE MONITORED BY "UMBRELLA" NTM GROUP THAT WILL MEET PERIODICALLY TO DISCUSS PROBLEM AREAS. NEXT SCHEDULED MEETING TO REVIEW INITIAL PROGRESS OF SUB-GROUPS WILL BE WEEK OF JUNE 23. LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 MTN GE 01615 101803Z

4. IN OPENING STATEMENT U.S. (KELLY) EMPHASIZED IMPORTANCE OF NTM NEGOTIATIONS FOR WORLD TRADE AND PROPOSED THAT NTM'S SELECTED FOR INITIAL NEGOTIATIONS SHOULD FOCUS ON PRACTICES THAT HAVE LARGE IMPACT ON WORLD TRADE, ARE OF MULTILATERAL INTEREST, AND COULD BE SUBJECT TO SELF-CONTAINED CODES OF CONDUCT. U.S. SINGLED OUT SUBSIDIES, STANDARDS, AND GOVERNMENT

PROCUREMENT AS INITIAL PRIORITIES AND URGED THAT SUB-GROUPS BE ESTABLISHED FOR SUBSIDIES AND STANDARDS BUT BELIEVED THAT GOVERNMENT PROCUREMENT NOT YET QUITE RIPE FOR MTN CONSIDERATION.

5. IN PREPARED REMARKS (HAND-CARRIED BY NEWKIRK--CONTACT STR FOR COPY) CANADA (CLARK) IDENTIFIED SUBSIDIES, COUNTERVAILING DUTIES, ANTIDUMPING PRACTICES, QUANTITATIVE RESTRICTIONS, STANDARDS, CUSTOMS VALUATION, CONSULAR FORMALITIES, AND CUSTOMS PROCEDURES AS PRIORITY NTM'S. CANADA ACCEPTED WORK PROGRAM WITHOUT INCLUSION OF ANTI-DUMPING DUTIES, BUT IS EXPECTED TO PRESS FOR THIS ADDITION AT NEXT NTM MEETING.

6. EC (ABBOTT) STATED THAT PROGRESS SHOULD BE SOUGHT ON AS WIDE A BASIS AS POSSIBLE BUT SUGGESTED INITIAL FOCUS ON CUSTOMS VALUATION, CUSTOMS NOMENCLATURE AND RELATED MATTERS; EXPORT SUBSIDIES AND COUNTERVAILING DUTIES; AND STANDARDS. IN ADDITION TO THESE ISSUES, BILATERAL NEGOTIATIONS SHOULD ALSO BE PURSUED.

7. JAPAN (WADA) REITERATED SUBJECTS MENTIONED BY EC BUT ADDED MARKS OF ORIGIN AND LICENSING. OTHER COUNTRIES (SWITZERLAND, NORDICS, NIGERIA, YUGOSLAVIA, PAKISTAN, PANAMA, MEXICO, BOLIVIA, SPAIN, POLAND, BRAZIL, AUSTRIA, HONG KONG, ARGENTINA, CZECHOSLOVAKIA, TURKEY, URUGUAY, AUSTRALIA, JAMAICA AND MALAYSIA) PROPOSED VARIOUS MINOR PERMUTATIONS OF SAME NTM'S.

8. SEVERAL LDC'S SUGGESTED GROUP BE ESTABLISHED ON HEALTH AND SANITARY REGULATIONS. U.S. AND OTHERS MAINTAINED THAT THIS ISSUE COULD BE DISCUSSED IN CONTEXT OF DRAFT STANDARDS CODE. FOR TREATMENT OF THIS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 04 MTN GE 01615 101803Z

ISSUE AND ITS RELATION TO AGRICULTURE QUESTION, SEE REFTEL.

9. INDIA PROPOSED THAT GOVERNMENT PROCUREMENT BE ADDED TO WORK PROGRAM. AGREEMENT REACHED LATER, WITH BROAD SUPPORT FROM LDC'S AND MTN OECD MEMBERS, THAT GATT SECRETARIAT WOULD PREPARE A REPORT ON THIS SUBJECT (SEE SEPTTEL--SENT SECSTATE AND OECD PARIS ONLY).

10. ON QUESTION OF ADDING ADDITIONAL NTM'S TO WORK PROGRAM IT WAS AGREED THAT "FROM TIME TO TIME THE GROUP WILL CONSIDER THE FEASIBILITY OF TAKING UP ADDITIONAL ITEMS." FURTHERMORE, IT IS OPEN TO ANY PARTICIPANT TO PROPOSE ADDITIONAL ITEMS AND AFTER THE AUGUST RECESS THE GROUP WILL MEET TO CONSIDER THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A SECOND LIST."

11. GROUP DISCUSSED POSSIBLE PROCEDURES FOR BILATERAL NTM NEGOTIATIONS. A NUMBER OF DELS WANTED A FORMAL STRUCTURE TO ENSURE CONSIDERATION OF THIRD COUNTRY INTERESTS. U.S. AND EC PREFERRED LESS INSTITUTIONALIZED PROCEDURES. U.S. STATED WILLINGNESS TO MEET WITH ANY COUNTRY, ANY TIME, TO DISCUSS ANY NTM. SECRETARIAT WILL PREPARE PAPER ON PREVIOUS BILATERAL NEGOTIATION PROCEDURES (MAINLY TARIFF NEGOTIATIONS IN KR) FOR CONSIDERATION AT NEXT MEETING.

12. AGREEMENT ON CHAIRMEN FOR NTM "UMBRELLA" AND SUB-GROUPS NOT YET REACHED. SUCH AGREEMENT MAY HAVE TO AWAIT AGREEMENT ON CHAIRMEN FOR ALL MAJOR GROUPS (TARIFFS, NTM'S, AGRICULTURE, TROPICAL PRODUCTS, SAFEGUARDS, AND SECTORS). HOPEFULLY, AGREEMENT SHOULD BE FORTHCOMING WEEK OF MARCH 10.

13. COMMENT: U.S. DEL BELIEVES THIS WAS HIGHLY SUCCESSFUL MEETING THAT PROVIDES EXCELLENT BASIS FOR SERIOUS NTM NEGOTIATIONS. AGRICULTURE ISSUE DID NOT PREVENT COOPERATIVE EFFORT MOVING AHEAD. WHILE U.S. IS NOT SANGUINE ABOUT SOME NTM'S IN INITIAL PROGRAM (VALUATION, MARKS OF ORIGIN), ALL U.S. PRIORITIES ARE INCLUDED.
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